

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO**  
**San Antonio Fire Department**  
**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** SAFD and DSD Associates  
**FROM:** Earl Crayton, Assistant Fire Chief  
**DATE:** February 1, 2008  
**FILE:** Code Interpretation Manual

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**INTERPRETATION NUMBER:** CI2008-001

**TITLE:** Use of Drivable Grass Surfaces for Fire Apparatus Access Roads

**CODE EDITION:** 2006 International Fire Code, City of San Antonio Amendments

**SECTION:** 503.2.3

**PURPOSE:** To explain the appropriate use and construction of drivable grass surfaces as fire apparatus access roads (FAARs)

**QUESTION 1:** Section 503.2.3 states that "Drivable grass surfaces, such as concrete grass pavers, are permitted when approved by the Fire Marshal...". Is there any specific instance where said surfaces will never be approved?

**ANSWER 1:** Yes. Drivable grass surfaces can never be used as the primary means of access to the site.

**QUESTION 2:** Are drivable grass surfaces required to be marked in any way other than as required for regular FAARs?

**ANSWER 2:** Yes. Blue traffic reflectors shall be provided on each side of the FAAR every 20 feet to clearly mark its boundaries. Vegetation on and surrounding the FAAR shall be maintained such that said reflectors are visible at all times.


**QUESTION 3:** What, if any, materials are prohibited from being used to construct a drivable grass surface?

**ANSWER 3:** No fiberglass or plastic materials are permitted to be used as the main structural component of the drivable grass surface. Also, sod is not permitted to be placed over the drivable base.

**QUESTION 4:** Can drivable grass surfaces be used as an aerial apparatus access road when in compliance with Section D105?

**ANSWER 4:**

Yes. If the surface proposed is to be used as the aerial apparatus access road for the facility, concrete curbing shall be installed along both sides of the portion to be used as such for enhanced lateral stability. A registered design professional shall design said curbing. Sealed drawings of the design shall be provided to the Fire Department and Development Services for review.



Earl Crayton, Assistant Fire Chief  
San Antonio Fire Department